

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 FCC-03 IO-12 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

OTP-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 OC-06 CCO-00 /093 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ TD: AEFRANK: SP

4/20/73 EXT. 22592

APPROVED BY EB/ TD: TENELSON

EUR/ NE - MR. FLOYD

FCC - MR. GREENBURG

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R 202318 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, IMCO

SUBJECT: IMCO: MARITIME SATELLITES

REF: LONDON 4480

1. FCC HAS AUTHORIZED COMSAT TO CONTRACT WITH HUGHES AIRCRAFT FOR THREE SATELLITES SIMILAR TO TYPE HUGHES BUILDING FOR CANADIAN DOMESTIC SYSTEM.

2. COMMISSION HAS STATED AUTHORIZATION FOR OPERATION OF SYSTEM WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE SATELLITES IN TWO OCEAN AREAS (ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC) FOR FIVE YEARS ONLY, WHICH IS LIFE EXPECTANCY OF SATELLITES. U. S. IS CONCERNED THAT PROPOSED SYSTEM NOT PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF EFFORTS UNDER WAY IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL FORUMS TO DETERMINE THE MEANS BY WHICH A MARITIME SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY MIGHT BEST BE ACHIEVED AND IN VIEW OF ABOVE LIMITATIONS, U. S. BELIEVES THIS CONCERN IS MET.

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3. FCC ORDER REQUIRES COMSAT TO OPEN PARTICIPATION IN ENTIRE PROJECT, NAVY AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL PORTION, TO ANY U. S. COMMON CARRIER NOW PROVIDING SERVICES VIA A PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE STATION IN MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE. CARRIERS DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE WILL HAVE TWENTY DAYS AFTER COMSAT'S APPLICATION IS MODIFIED ALONG FOREGOING LINES TO SO INDICATE.

4. BEGIN FYI: INDICATIONS ARE THAT CONDITIONS CITED IN PARA 3 ABOVE MAY BE CONTESTED. IN THE MEANTIME, THEREFORE, SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE OUTCOME SHOULD BE AVOIDED SINCE AT THIS TIME NEITHER THE PRECISE NATURE OF CONTESTING ACTION NOR OUTCOME KNOWN. DISCUSSION SHOULD BE CONFINED TO OUTLINE OF FCC DECISION (PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE). END FYI

5. POE DELEGATION WILL BRING COPIES OF FCC DECISION FOR INTERESTED PARTIES. GIVEN FACT THAT SITUATION MAY BE HIGHLY FLUID AND NOT FULLY RESOLVED BY APRIL 30, WE PRESENTLY INCLINED NOT TO SUBMIT A PAPER; HOWEVER, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS STATE OF PLAY WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS. PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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